

Astro News

Officially open...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

Gary Van Dusen, Chief of Services, and Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, SMC commander, cut the ribbon at the official opening of the Los Angeles AFB Cardiovascular Theater System in the fitness center. The new theater system equipment enables fitness enthusiasts a choice of listening to the radio or watching television during their workout.

Mandatory travel card use date extended to May 1

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Service members and Defense Department civilians now have until May 1 before use of the government travel credit card is mandatory, DOD officials said.

DOD is one of a number of agencies given two extra months to implement the program, said Nelson Toye, DOD's deputy chief financial officer.

William J. Lynn, undersecretary of defense (comptroller), signed the memorandum announcing the extension March 1.

"Within DOD, the primary reason for the delay is that we were so late receiving the guidance," Toye said. "Our components came back to us and asked for an extension. When we applied to the General Services Administration, they were willing to grant us the extension."

Toye said that GSA officials made it clear there "would be no more extensions."

Toye's guidance in the meantime to DOD finance officials is to implement the travel card program to the extent possible.

He said the extension does not mean Congress is rethinking the policy. It has just taken longer than expected for government agencies to work out the details.

DOD issued new policies in mid-February to implement travel card requirements in an amendment to the Federal Travel Regulation published by the GSA in the Jan. 19 Federal Register. The amendment implements requirements in the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

The Defense Department began using travel cards in 1983 to pay for lodging, transportation, rental cars and other allowable expenses.

The current contractor is Bank of America VISA. The new travel card rules will be included in Volume 9, "Travel Policy and Procedures," of the DOD Financial Management Regulation DOD 7000.14-R.

For more information on DOD's travel card program, visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service web site or the Bank of America VISA government card site.

Air Force satellite captures meteor images

1st Lt. Colleen Lehne
Public Affairs

The Air Force's Advanced Research and Global Observation Satellite captured the first far-ultraviolet picture of a meteor during this past year's Leonid meteor shower peaking Nov. 18, 1999.

ARGOS is the Air Force's largest and most complex Research and Development satellite ever to fly and includes nine diverse world-class experiments from Army, Air Force and Navy research laboratories. The Department of Defense Space Test Program, falling under the Space and Missile Systems Center here, oversees and manages the ARGOS Program.

The Global Imaging Monitor of the Ionosphere payload, which is onboard ARGOS, took the picture. GIMI was built by the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C.

"This is yet another first for the ARGOS mission. Not only is it the biggest Air Force research satellite ever

launched, but over the last year we have operated the largest electrical power system on orbit," said Lt. Col. Perry Ballard, DoD Space Test Program manager.

"From identifying interplanetary dust to getting precision timing data from galactic X-ray sources—as well as this meteor observation—the worldwide scientific community will benefit from ARGOS experiments for years to come," Ballard said.

"The first observation from space of a meteor, by GIMI in UV light, adds another dimension to the handful of previous space observations of meteors," notes Dr. Noah Brosch of the Wise Observatory and the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Dr. Brosch explains, "Satellites view the Earth continuously and rarely detect extremely bright fireballs. These detections are mostly in the visible or near-infrared spectral domains. The GIMI observation is the first such space experiment to be done in the UV."

See ARGOS on Page 4

Celebrate Women's History Month

Lack of stripes doesn't diminish status, worth

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Andrews
60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) — Air Force statistics indicate the average airman coming into the Air Force is 19.9 years old. Out of those airmen, nearly 16 percent had at least 15 hours of college credit.

Last year alone, 325 new recruits started basic training with a college degree, 13 of those had a master's degree. I am part of that percentage of new recruits with a college degree that chose to serve as an enlisted person. I was surprised when I arrived here to find that some assume the lack of rank to be a lack of intelligence.

This assumption is not true. Most airmen are smart, motivated and want to make a difference. The Air Force recruits airmen saying it holds them to a higher standard and only wants the "best of the best" to serve within its ranks. Yet, once new airmen arrive at their permanent station, this recruiting concept may be lost if new airmen aren't treated as the best of the best or held to a higher standard.

Today's airmen are not carbon copies of yesterday's Air Force. We come with different perspectives and an abundance of innovative ideas. Yes, we lack military experience. Yes, some of our ideas are not practical in a military environment. However, when energetic airmen are stifled and not given an opportunity to shine and show intelligence, the Air Force is being cheated out of a valuable resource.

Effective leaders bridge the experience gap by being mentors. When the time is taken to empower airmen, the

military benefits from unexpected results.

In November, eight airmen here earned almost \$9,500 from the Air Force's Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program. Four members of the team were junior enlisted from the 60th Aerial Port Squadron. Their contributions helped improve the government bill-of-lading process for the squadron's freight management section. The innovative idea saves Travis about \$68,000 annually.

A senior airman from Eglin AFB, Fla., received the 1998 Air Force Submitter of the Year award. It is the most prestigious award associated with the IDEA program. In 1998, the Air Force accepted 14 of his 21 ideas submitted. He is credited with saving the Air Force more than \$93,762.

Airman 1st Class John Levitow was the lowest ranking airman in history to receive the Medal of Honor. He was a 23-year-old airman first class working as a loadmaster aboard an AC-47 during the Vietnam War when he threw himself on a magnesium flare to save the lives of the people on board.

In these cases, the airmen were held accountable for their actions and respected for their initiative. They did not succeed all on their own, but under the guidance of their leaders.

Part of what leadership means is being passionate about motivating others to succeed and holding them accountable when they don't. NCOs and officers are required to accept the responsibility of being leaders. In turn, airmen must accept responsibility to prove themselves. (Courtesy of Air Mobility Command News Service)

Astro News deadlines

The Los Angeles AFB paper, the *Astro News*, is published every other week on Friday. The editorial office is located within the Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office in Building 105, Room 4049, in Area A. The telephone number is (310) 363-6428.

Deadline for article submissions is Thursday, noon, the week before the publication date. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor at **SMC.PA.Astronews@losangeles.af.mil** or sent on disk. The mailing address is:

SMC/PAI -- Astro News editor
2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467
El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659

Publication dates	Submission dates
Mar. 24	Mar. 16
Apr. 7	Mar. 30
Apr. 21	Apr. 13
May 5	Apr. 27
May 19	May 11
June 2	May 25
June 16	June 8
June 30	June 22
July 14	July 6
July 28	July 20
Aug. 11	Aug. 3

Action Line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to **Col. David E. Price**, 61st Air Base Group commander.

Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to work, live and play. Of course the fastest way to resolve any problem is to ask the person who can actually fix it.

Below is a list of people who can do just that:

Base Exchange David Clore 640-0129
Base IG Dorothy Brown 363-0802
Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Garvey 363-1956



Civil Engineering	Lt. Col. William Saunders	363-0287	Services	Gary Van Dusen	363-0430
Commissary	Al Cherry	363-6140	Military Equal Opportunity Office	Capt. Lisa Day	363-2806
Communications Sqd.	Lt. Col. Mark Hall	363-0798	TRICARE		363-0261
Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office	Leonard Gonzales	363-1565	24-hour Crime Stop		363-2124
Family Support Center	Tom Sanders	363-5365	Legal Office	Col. Scott Bagley	363-0916
Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline		363-2020	Area Defense Counsel	Capt. Art Kirkpatrick	363-6776
Housing	James Wirrie	363-8340			
Logistics	Capt. Tam Elliott	363-0351			
Medical	Lt. Col. Mark Wisniewski	363-5005			
Mission Support	Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley	363-1230			
Security Forces	Maj. Larry Bartlett	363-0032			

Try your supervisor, first sergeant or commander. If you are not able to resolve a problem, call the Action Line. Your call will be recorded and if you leave your name and phone number, you will receive an answer.

Astro News

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Master Sgt. Tim Helton
Capt. Jodi Unsinger
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Staff Writer
Staff Writer

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information.

News Briefs

Officer promotions announced

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The Air Force released the listing of the service's newest Line, Judge Advocate General, Medical Service Corps, Nurse Corps, Biomedical Sciences Corps lieutenant colonels, and Judge Advocate General captains Tuesday.

The complete list of those selected for promotion is available on the Air Force Personnel Center's home page.

The AFPC home page address is <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>; then click on the appropriate headline to view those promoted. A list of SMC selectees is on page 6.

New savings bonds offered

DENVER (AFPN) — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service began offering the new Series I savings bonds, along with the existing Series EE savings bonds, to civilian employees March 1, through the voluntary payroll savings plan. Active duty and retired military members will be able to purchase the I bonds beginning April 1.

The new bonds will be sold at face value (you pay \$50 for a \$50 bond) and will be offered in \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations.

The EE bonds are Treasury securities, and interest is added to the redemption value every six months and paid to the investor when the bond is redeemed. The purchase price of an EE Bond is 50 percent face value (a \$100 bond costs \$50) and is offered in \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations.

For more information regarding the benefits of the new I bonds or the EE bonds, visit the Bureau of Public Debts web site on the internet.

Tax program available to AF service members

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — This year, the Judge Advocate General is once again available to help service members with their income tax returns.

Base legal offices throughout the Air Force establish the tax assistance program. People eligible for regular legal assistance may use the program.

Under the guidance of the base legal office, base units select unit tax advisors for IRS-sponsored tax training. These tax advisors then help their unit members calculate their taxes. For many, the next stop is the base legal office's electronic filing office. This office, often manned and run by trained volunteers, electronically files the members' tax returns with the IRS. The result is a speedier refund.

The program has grown each year. The 1999 Air Force Tax program filed 14 percent more electronic returns than in 1998, which filed 24 percent more electronic returns than in 1997. Nearly 30 percent of Air Force members used the program in 1999, and legal officials expect that number to increase. Estimated savings to Air Force people, who avoided having to pay commercial companies for the same service, totaled almost \$9.5 million in 1999.

So look for the tax program at your base and take advantage of it. It's another way of putting people first. (Courtesy of Air Force Judge Advocate General's office)

Support and defend...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

General George Babbitt, AFMC commander, administers the oath of enlistment to Tech. Sgt. Enrico Pamintuan, SMC MILSATCOM Joint Program Office, and Staff Sgt. Bernard Lutap, 61st Medical Squadron, here Wednesday. The general officiated the re-enlistment ceremony during his two-day visit to SMC, the last such official visit to Los Angeles AFB before he retires April 20.

Ralston turns Vice Chair job over to Myers

Master Sgt. Anne Proctor

Special to the American Forces Press Service

FORT MYER, Va., — An Armed Forces Tribute and Welcoming Ceremony was the occasion of the changeover of the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Friday.

Before nearly 600 people at Comny Hall, Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston turned the reins of office over to Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presided. The vice chairman is the U.S. military's second highest-ranking service member.

Ralston leaves to become the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command in May. Myers is now the fifth vice chairman. He comes to the position after serving as commander in chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Cohen presented Ralston, a 35-year veteran, with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. He was recognized for his contributions to Allied Force air operations over Kosovo, Joint Guardian peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and disaster relief to victims of Hurricane Mitch.

The award also recognized Ralston's work as chairman of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council and vice chairman of the Defense Acquisition Board. Cohen praised Ralston for his vision and involvement in the procurement and allocation of resources for future military operations.

Cohen said Ralston was a most unassuming leader and that people know little of his accomplishments. Three decades ago, Cohen said, in the skies over Vietnam, 1st

Lt. Joe Ralston risked his life to save downed pilots and flew over heavily defended areas of North Vietnam.

"That pilot became a pioneer," Cohen said. "Historians of tomorrow will look to the stealth operations of today and know the legacy of Joe Ralston will be measured in the lives saved and the victories secured.

"We have witnessed his fortitude [and] incomparable resolve in guiding operations the world over. We have witnessed his piercing intelligence — Joint Vision is now transforming our forces," said Cohen.

"Ralston particularly respected those he commanded, sometimes delaying meetings to conduct recognition ceremonies for people; even the most junior subordinates," said the secretary.

Shelton presented Ralston's wife Dede with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Distinguished Public Service Award. She was cited for her volunteerism at home and abroad, as well as her efforts to improve quality of life and family support programs for military members. Shelton called her a "tireless ambassador of good will."

Before relinquishing his office, Ralston told the crowd that in looking back on the last four years, he would remember the interlocking circles involved with getting the job done.

He said he was proud of the decisions the Joint Chiefs have made in both war and peace, but he was most proud "of the teamwork we have demonstrated as part of the senior [military and civilian] leadership in this DoD."

Myers was born in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a 1965 graduate of Kansas State University and holds a master's degree in business administration from Auburn University.

Myers entered the Air Force in 1965 through reserve officer training corps. His career includes operational command and leadership positions in a variety of Air Force and joint assignments.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

Martial arts students display one of the many moves required to receive their next belt.

Martial arts group shows their stuff

S. Denise Bowman
Launch Programs

A team of nine elite black belts and fitness professionals from across the country conducted a martial arts test for children and adults at Fort MacArthur Feb. 19.

Staff Sgt. Alonzo Jones, President of the World Combat Academy and Assistant Professor of Goju Sabdo Kai, organized and supervised the test. The theme was "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body." This test is the result of a base-wide martial arts and fitness program founded by Jones.

Jones has personally trained and certified a team of instructors called "Team P.U.N.C.H."— Providing Understanding in Nutrition, Cardiovascular fitness and overall Health & wellness. Jones oversees the martial arts program, which consists of training in self-defense, nutrition, fitness and stress management.

"Our Los Angeles Air Force Base staff are all phenomenal martial arts and fitness instructors and current martial arts champions," said Jones.

Technical Sergeant Everaldo Foster formulated the children's program along with Pat Brown, child development center coordinator.

The program is called "Young Warriors" and operates under the guidance of Jones' lesson plans on child development in martial arts.

The class has 30 plus students ages 7 to 14. The system they study is called Cory Jitsu Do, which means "chosen way of skill." It teaches children discipline, drug prevention, motivation, basic fitness, interpersonal relationship skills, study habits, teamwork and a respect for others.

"Many people are confused about what martial arts teaches. Martial arts is not really about fighting. It teaches people how to avoid conflict and take better care of themselves mentally, physically and spiritually so they can live life full of happiness. That's what I want for my kids," said Foster.

Two of the board members, Master Jason Laidlaw and Sifu Tracy Laidlaw, originally were students of this program and now run a school in Arizona.

The base martial arts program is free to all active duty and DoD employees.

ARGOS from Page 1

Dr. George Carruthers, NRL's GIMI principal investigator, notes the scientific significance of the observation saying, "to our knowledge, this is the first observation of a meteor entry to the atmosphere in the far-UV spectral range, which cannot be observed from Earth's surface or from aircraft because of its absorption by the lower atmosphere.

"Ground-based observations of meteors cannot detect many of the important elements and compounds expected to be present in meteoroids," he continued.

ARGOS was one element of a coordinated worldwide effort that used ground, space and airborne assets from the Air Force, NASA and civilian universities to observe the 1999 Leonid Meteor Storm.

ARGOS' other payloads include an experimental high-power arc-jet thruster, specialized UV optical instruments, an X-ray stellar timing and navigation experiment, a gas ionization experiment, a high-temperature superconductor technology demonstrator, a space dust and particle counter and a radio beacon used to characterize the energy absorption of the upper atmosphere. ARGOS was launched on a Boeing Delta II rocket out of Vandenberg AFB, Calif., Feb. 23, 1999.

Space Walk stimulates youthful interest in space

Ronea Alger
Public Affairs

Four additional bronze plaques will soon be permanently mounted on the fence pillars along Pacific Avenue of Fort MacArthur in San Pedro to commemorate award winners of the 8th annual Space Walk essay contest.

Sponsored by the General Bernard A. Schriever Los Angeles Chapter 147 of the Air Force Association, the plaque will list the names and school affiliation of the winners. This year's topics and winners are:

Global Positioning Systems in Everyday Life

First Place: Andrea Forster, El Segundo Middle School

Second Place: Brennan Phelan, Dana Middle School

Third Place: Ezekiel Bhasker, Redondo Union High School

International Space Station

First Place: Kelly Yang, El Segundo Middle School

Second Place: Frank Arnold, Dodson Middle School

Third Place: Brian Wang, Dodson Middle School

John F. Kennedy: Race to Space

First Place: Samantha Caceres, Dana Middle School

Second Place: Jamie Trinkle, El Segundo Middle School

Third Place: Jessica Guerrero, Dana Middle School

National Reconnaissance Office

First Place: Frankie Mitrano, Dana Middle School

Second Place: Erik Bettis, Dana Middle School

Third Place: Anthony Diaz, Dana Middle School

The Space Walk program began over eight years ago from a conversation between San Pedro school system representative Bonnie Christensen and retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Don Cromer, then commander of the Air Force Space Systems Division – now the Space and Missile Systems Center. Since then, the General Schriever chapter of the Air Force Association undertook sponsorship of the program.

"From the outset, our goals were to encourage youthful interest in aerospace and to promote educational activities that will further advance our knowledge and achievements in space," said Deborah Westphal, AFA Space Walk committee chairman.

Students in grades 7 to 12 from schools in El Segundo and San Pedro were invited to select one of four topics. "These schools were chosen because they are attended by the majority of the children of SMC personnel," said Westphal.

Each student was required to write a 300- to 400-word essay that addressed why the topic is significant, some details on the subject and the reasons for selecting that particular topic.

The four topics are selected for historical significance, level of current interest and amount of public information available to the students for research. A committee of chapter members select three essay winners for each of the four topics. The winners receive monetary prizes and recognition during an awards luncheon.

Visit AFMC's Help Center web site on-line at
<http://www.afmc-help.wpafb.af.mil>

Leading L.A.

Staff Sergeant Vanessa Carrillo



Carrillo

is an SMC Construction Branch Operational Contracting Division contract specialist. She is responsible for soliciting written proposals for construction contracts from qualified sources in accordance with policies, procedures and authority set forth in acquisition regulations, supplements and other purchasing directives. She also negotiates and administers construction contracts valued at over \$2 million, conducts progress meetings with contractors and civil engineering personnel, conducts site visits, conducts labor compliance checks, monitors payrolls, certifies invoices for payment, coordinates material submittal requests through civil engineering and ensures contractors adhere to performance schedules.

“My job is important because most construction contracts correct building codes and standards that impact the quality of life for members at Los Angeles Air Force Base,” said Carrillo.

The San Pedro native received an associate’s degrees in logistics management and contracts management from the Community College of the Air Force. She is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership.

“My short-term goal is to finish my bachelor’s degree by next year,” said the eight-year Air Force veteran. “My long-term goal is to run my own business.”

When time permits, Carrillo enjoys volunteering in the community.

“I tutor school-age children at the Fort MacArthur Youth Center on Thursdays and visit and play bingo with hospitalized veterans at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital,” said Carrillo

Carrillo’s personal time is spent with three sisters and with her two-and-a-half-year-old son, Anthony Elizah. She also enjoys leisure travel, wine tasting and dancing.

Congratulations

O-5 selections

The following majors from SMC have been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel: **Jeffrey Beck**, Space Based Infrared Systems Program Office, **Casey Blake**, Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, **Dianna Dylewski**, Test and Evaluations, **Keith Gilmore**, MT, **James Jordan**, Advanced Systems, **Walt Lauderdale**, Launch Programs, **Edward Lorenzini**, 61st Communications Squadron, **Pedro Oms**, **Dean Osgood**, MT, **Alec Robinson**, MT, **David Russell**, MT, **Leroy Smith**, **Arnold Streland**, Advanced Systems Directorate, **Grant Takahashi**, Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, **Mark Thomas**, **Douglas Westphal**, and **Eugene Yim**, Developmental Planning.

90 percent club

The following individuals received 90 percent or better on their end-of-career

development course exam. **Tech. Sgt. Daniel Williams**, SMC developmental planning, 3A071, 92 percent and **Senior Airman Melinda Reichenbach**, 61st Medical Squadron, 4N051B, 93 percent.

Senior officer announcements

Colonel Michael Booen, Systems Program Director, Airborne Laser, Kirtland AFB, N.M., to Systems Program Director, Space Based Infrared System SPO.

Colonel Daniel Burkett II, Systems Program Director, SBIRS, to Special Assistant to the Commander.

Colonel Ellen Pawlikowski, Deputy Director, Global Power Programs, SAF/AQP, Pentagon, Va., to Systems Program Directorate Airborne Laser, Kirtland AFB.

Colonel Randall Weidenheimer, Chief, Engagement Systems Division, SMC/ADE, to Chief, Program Integration Div, SAF/AQXR, Pentagon ,Va.

AF online newspaper www.af.mil/newspaper

‘Commitment to Caring’ through Air Force Assistance Fund contributions

The 2000 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign runs now through March 31. “Commitment to Caring” is the campaign’s permanent theme.

“The Air Force Assistance Fund is important to Air Force members because it directly supports *all* Air Force members, whether they are active duty, retired or a surviving spouse. It gives us a chance to help our own. Everyone knows of an individual who has been helped by the Air Force Aid Society in some form or another,” said Captain Richard Hopkins, AFAF Installation Project Officer.

Last year’s contributions totaled nearly \$4 million. The Air Force goal for the 2000 AFAF Campaign is \$3.4 million.

The annual AFAF campaign raises money for four charitable organizations benefiting active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses and their families.

The organizations include:

The Air Force Aid Society

Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force, which can be accessed worldwide for emergency financial assistance.

The top priority is assistance to active duty members and their families, but consideration is given to assisting retirees and widows on a limited, case-by-case basis. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on extended active duty under Title 10 U.S.C. can also be eligible for emergency assistance when circumstances warrant. The Air Force Aid Society also offers education assistance programs and an array of base level community enhancement programs. Local Family Support Centers can provide full details on programs and eligibility. Information is also available on their web site.

The Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund

The Village, located in San Antonio,

is a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. Their Indigent Widows Fund provides support to indigent widows and widowers of Air Force officers. For more information, visit their web site.

The Air Force Enlisted Men’s Widows and Dependents Home Foundation Inc.

The home is located in Fort Walton Beach near Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people who live among peers sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities. Those eligible are widows and widowers, 55 and older, whose spouses were retired enlisted persons from the regular Air Force, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve. For more information,

e-mail them at afewh@emeraldcoast.com.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation

Not all indigent widows or widowers want, or are able, to move to one of the retirement homes. The LeMay foundation provides rent and financial assistance to indigent officers’ and enlisted widows or widowers in their own home and community. For more information, visit their web site.

Donations to the AFAF campaign can be made through cash or check contributions or payroll deduction. Contributors may designate their contributions to one or more of the four charities, and 100 percent of their AFAF contribution is passed to their chosen charities. Contributions to the AFAF are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes as an itemized deduction.

For more information on the AFAF campaign, check out its web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund, then click on “Fundraising.” For local goals and contribution procedures, contact your local installation or unit project officers. *(Information provided by AFNEWS and SMC Public Affairs)*



Marine Sgt. Chan Parker, drill instructor, “discusses” the proper wear of the military uniform with a Westwood High School cadet during the inspection competition.

ROTC units gather from across the nation for drill meet

Story and Photos by Master Sgt. T.J. Helton
Public Affairs

On a cold and rainy day, more than 100 junior and senior reserve officer training corps teams from as far away as Washington gathered at Huntington Beach to compete in the 35th annual Southern California Invitational Drill Meet Saturday.

The meet put more than 1,000 cadets and midshipmen in a competition to become the best drill team in the oldest, largest and most prestigious drill meet in the nation.

Brigadier General John M. Spiegel, Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools commander, kicked off the day-long event that consisted of armed and unarmed competitions in inspection, regulation and exhibition phases, four-person team performances and an individual drill down. The Air Force Presidential Honor Guard Drill Team also performed for the crowd.

Sweepstakes winners were University of California at Los Angeles Air Force SROTC, Valley View HS JROTC and Fontana HS #3 JROTC.

Detachment 060 Senior Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps coordinated the event which consists of members from the University of Southern California, Harvey Mudd College and California State University San Bernardino.



Mira Mesa High School from San Diego, Calif., salutes the competition during their exhibition drill.



Air Force Presidential Honor Guard Drill Team shows weapons can fly.



Westwood High School from Arizona competes in regulation drill.

Blotter: Shoplifting, thefts, accidents top base police responses

The following information highlights base police activity from Feb. 25 to March 2.

Theft of personal property

An Air Force member reported the theft of a watch valued at \$400 from the base fitness center men’s locker room. The incident is under investigation.

An Army National Guard member reported the theft of the license plate from his boat trailer stored in the Lawndale Annex Recreational Vehicle Storage lot. The incident is under investigation.

Medical emergency

An Air Force member reported his wife was experiencing a seizure at their residence at the Pacific Crest Housing area. Security forces and Los Angeles City Fire Department Paramedic personnel responded. The wife was stabilized and transported to the San Pedro Peninsula Hospital for further treatment and observation.

Traffic accident

A vehicle backed into another vehicle, causing minor damage at the commissary. A minor vehicle accident report was accomplished.

Deserter

An Army member approached the Isis Street Gate and said he had been absent without leave for one year. Security forces assumed custody of the individual. Fort Stewart, Ga., military police were notified. The individual was issued a provisional pass and given an order to proceed directly to Fort Sill, Okla.

Update: Alleged off base rape

An initial investigation revealed the suspect of an off-base alleged rape reported last month was a commissary contract employee. The suspect was immediately terminated from the commissary contract and is no longer allowed on the installation. The Inglewood City Police Department is continuing the investigation.

Damage to personal property

A base exchange employee reported damage to his car. The incident allegedly occurred while the vehicle was parked in the shoppette parking lot at Fort MacArthur. The incident is under investigation.

Shoplifting

Four individuals were detained for allegedly shoplifting on three different occasions at the base exchange. Detained were the wife of a retired Air Force member, a Navy member and his wife, and a retired Navy member. Security forces and El Segundo City Police responded to all three incidents. All individuals were issued suspension-of-base-exchange-and-commissary-privileges letters and cited for petty theft.

The son of an Air Force member was detained at the Fort MacArthur Shoppette for shoplifting. He was released to his father.

Fire response

An Air Force member reported her toaster had malfunctioned and had caught on fire at her Fort MacArthur residence. The toaster, kitchen counter top and kitchen cabinet doors sustained minor damage.

Safety office gives lawn and garden care advice

Staff Sgt. Mark Garner
Base Safety Office

Spring is just about a month away. If you're like me, you've already been working on your lawns or flower gardens. The safety office wants to remind everyone to practice safety and common sense while working in their yards and gardens. About 230,000 people each year are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries relating to various lawn and garden tools. Each year, about 75 people are killed and about 20,000 are injured on or near lawn mowers and tractors. One out of every five deaths involved a child. Most of the deaths to children occurred when a child was in the path of a moving mower. We want to do everything possible to prevent you and your family from becoming one of these statistics. The Consumer Safety Product Commission makes sure that the lawn and garden equipment consumers use is safe, but consumers must do their part

to care for their own safety. Take the following precautions to prevent injuries from lawn and garden equipment:

1. Be sure you know how to operate the equipment.
2. Know where the controls are and what they do.
3. Don't remove or disable guards or other safety devices.
4. Dress appropriately for the job. This includes sturdy shoes with slip-resistant rubber soles, close fitting clothes, eye protection, gloves and hearing protection when needed.
5. Before starting, walk around the area in which you will be working to remove any objects like sticks, glass, metal, wire and stones that could cause injury or dam-

age equipment

6. Never take a child for a ride on a garden tractor or riding mower.
7. Keep children indoors and supervised at all times when any outdoor power equipment is being used. Young children move quickly and are attracted to mowing activity.
8. Never assume children will remain where you last saw them.
9. Be alert and turn off the mower if children enter the mowing area.
10. Use extra care when backing up or going around corners, shrubs, trees or other obstacles.
11. Never work with electric power tools in wet or damp conditions.
12. Be sure that extension cords are in

good condition, are rated for outdoor use, and are the proper gauge for the electrical current capacity of the tool.

13. Before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts, unplug electric tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools.
14. Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended.
15. Handle gasoline carefully. Remember never to fill gas tanks while machinery is operating or when equipment is still hot. Wipe up spills. Store gas in an approved container away from the house.
- Finally, never smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline.
16. When using chemical and fertilizers on the lawn, be sure you are aware of the hazards involved. Secure all items when job is completed.
- For more information, call the safety office at 363-3048.



Chaplain programs

A grand Purim celebration is slated for March 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Aerospace cafeteria dining room “A,” room 1607, located adjacent to the main Aerospace cafeteria. Chaplain Kalinsky will conduct a special presentation and all are welcome. There will be food, megilah reading and music. A small donation is requested. For more information, call Capt. Jesse Arnstein at 363-5681.

The 48th Annual National Prayer Luncheon is scheduled for April 4 at 11 a.m. in The Club’s ballroom. This year’s guest is the Citadel Gospel Choir from the Citadel Military College, S.C. They will perform an array of traditional spirituals, contemporary gospel music and selected anthems. This event is open to all DoD personnel and their dependents, reserve and retired military. The menu consists of an Italian buffet. The cost per ticket is \$5 for enlisted personnel and \$8 for everyone else. Tickets may be obtained through your executive officer, first sergeant or the chaplain’s office. For more information, call 363-1956.

Lenten Observances will be held in the Daedalian Room

March 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12 at 11:30 a.m.

Soup n’ Bread Suppers will be held at Fort MacArthur, Building 37 at 6 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross at the Fort MacArthur Chapel at 7 p.m., March 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12 at 11:30 a.m.

A Seder/Passover meal will be held at the Cabrillo Marina, April 9 at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit the Chaplain Service Division in Building 219, Room 1901 or call 363-1956.

Frame-of-Choice program

The FOC program gives new and different eyewear choices free to all active-duty Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard personnel. Due to high demand, personnel will be authorized fitting for the new glasses according to this schedule:

March	E-1 through E-4
April	E-5 through E-6
May	E-7 through E-9
June	O-1 through O-2
July	O-3 through O-4

August	O-5 through O-6
Sept.	O-6 and above

For more information, call Senior Airman Terri Honeycutt at 363-2485.

Risk management case studies

Aerospace, SMC and contractor personnel are invited to submit one-page abstracts describing a brief case study in risk management, citing actual experiences and lessons learned for Acquisition Reform Week to be held in May. Submit entries as soon as possible.

The workshop is a predecessor to this fall’s Risk Management Symposium to be held in McLean, Va.

For more information, call Col. Mike Giblin at 363-6725.

Vehicle registration change

California law now allows spouses of nonresident military members to have their vehicles registered in states other than California. Previously, the nonresident military member had to be the owner or co-owner of the vehicle in order for the vehicle to be exempt from registration in California. For more information, call 1-800-777-0133.

The Club 363-2230

A St. Patrick’s Day membership appreciation party will be held Friday in the ballroom from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for members and their authorized guests. There will be prizes, giveaways and free Irish food. A disc jockey will play music and special Irish drinks will be available.

A picnic lunch will be served March 21 in the ballroom from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for members and their guests. The menu will feature chicken, potato salad, other salads, fruit and brownies. The price is \$5.95 per person.

Swing dance lessons will be provided Friday and March 31 in the Atrium room at 4:30 p.m. Alli-Kat Kalli and Jeter-Bug will demonstrate and give free lessons.

The bar is open Fridays at 4 p.m. Free snacks are available to club members. The disc jockey starts playing at 5 p.m.

Barber Shop 363-1733

The shop’s hours are Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Building 120.

Vet Clinic 363-8269

The vet is scheduled to be in March 24. Call 363-8269 for an appointment. Messages may be left on the answering machine when the clinic is closed. Please state name, phone number, animal’s name and species, as well as what kind of appointment is needed. The clinic will call you back with an appointment.

The Vet Clinic accepts VISA and MasterCard.

Youth Services 363-8383

A T-Ball clinic will be held March 18. It runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 4 and 5, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 6-8, and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for ages 9-11. For more information, call Ronnie Wade at 363-8381.

The next Parents Night Out will be held Friday in building 425 from 7 to 10 p.m. This event is for children 5 years of age (in kindergarten) through 12 years of age (in grade school). The cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Sign up by Monday.

Give Parents A Break is scheduled for March 18 from 1 to 6 p.m. This activity is free. Contact your first sergeant, chaplain, youth flight director or commander for the criteria. Sign up by Monday.

The Ronald McDonald Fun Run is slated for May 21. All ages can participate. All proceeds support Camp Ronald McDonald. Entry fees are \$15 per runner prior to April 28, \$20 after April 29. Sign up by April 24.

A spring fashion show will be held March 24 beginning at 7 p.m at the community center. Kids of all ages can participate. Sign up at the youth center by today.

Family movie night is tonight at the community center. The movie will be announced later. The snack bar

will be open to purchase your snacks. The movie begins at 7 p.m. and is free.

Street hockey begins March 25 at the teen center parking lot at 2 p.m.

Movie, pizza and float night will be held March 31 from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$3

Youth activities is looking for instructors to teach ballet, tap, gymnastics and piano. For more information, call Rebecca Burns at 363-8381.

Youth activities are open to DoD civilian employee’s family members. For more information, call 363-8564 or 8402.

Los Angeles AFB Performing Arts Troupe--Want to develop your artistic side? Whether you are, or want to be, an actor, dancer, singer, artist, seamstress, director, choreographer, carpenter, lighting technician or stage mom/dad, sign up now.

Parents looking for a teen sitter can call the Teen Scene for the list of those that completed the “Teen for Tots” babysitting program.

Family Child Care 833-8334

The next family child care orientation is scheduled Tuesday through Thursday. For more information, call

Nancy Feist at 363-8335.

Child Development Center
363-8335

The El Segundo CDC needs used compact discs for preschoolers to make sun catchers in the spring.

The Fort MacArthur CDC will create a quilt to hang in the lobby the week of March 13. The center needs spare material or fabric and any volunteers who would be willing to help sew the quilt. For more information, call 363-8335.

The Fort MacArthur CDC will host parent and teacher conferences March 20-24. A sign-up sheet will be available in each classroom.

The Fort MacArthur Community
Center 363-8225

The community center hosts “Mommy and Me” time Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This session is free. Moms (and Dads too) are encouraged to come out with their toddlers for a morning of exercise and fun.

Family Bingo Night at the community center will be held Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is 25 cents a game with a total of 10 games being played. Play Bingo for prizes and buy dinner from our snack bar.

The community center takes a trip to the Staples Center to see the LA Lakers play the Philadelphia 76ers March 31. The bus leaves the community center at 5:45 p.m. and returns after the game. The cost is \$27 per person and includes ticket and transportation.

This trip is open to all identification cardholders and their guests. Sign up and pay by March 30.

Tickets & Information 363-2190

The tickets and information office has vouchers for lift tickets and skiing lessons for several ski and snowboard areas in California and Nevada.

Note: Some ski resort areas have options such as cross-country skiing, sledding, inner-tubing and even skateboarding areas. Equipment can be rented from the base equipment rental office or ski resorts.

Lift tickets for Big Bear \$27.50, Snow Summit \$31, Snow Valley \$28, Mammoth \$45 and Mountain High \$27.

Equipment Rental

A snow board package is \$8 and includes boots and board.

Los Angeles AFB has four recreational vehicle storage facilities located next to Building 219 and 215 in Area B next to the FamCamp in Lawndale and one at Fort MacArthur. Storage fees are \$30 per month for RVs over 23 feet and \$20 per month for RVs under 23 feet long.

Note: The RV storage located at Fort MacArthur is open to active duty military personnel residing in military housing.

Auto Skills Center 363-1705

The March special is a tune up. The cost is from \$35 to \$55 based on size and make of vehicle.

The auto skills center is open Tuesdays through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Chapel
Schedule

Roman Catholic

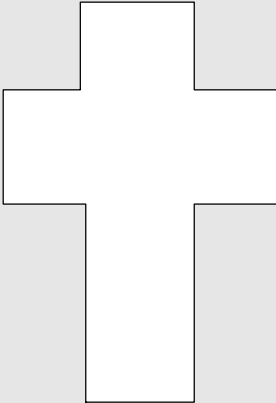
Saturday: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:45 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: Mass at 9 a.m., CCD in Building 37 at 10:30 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday: Sunday School at 9 a.m., Building 37; General Protestant worship at 10:30 a.m.

All the above services are at the Fort MacArthur Chapel. Call the Chaplain Service division office at 363-1956 or visit <http://www.laafb.af.mil/abg/hc/chaplain.htm> for more information.



SPACE-A-Travel

The following SPACE-A-travel information is courtesy of the Air Mobility Command information center operating from Los Angeles International Airport.

The AMC information center’s hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily during flight arrivals and departures. The Marine Corps liaison office hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, and the number is 363-1997 or 3590.

The AMC customer service branch phone number is 363-0714 and -0715. For recorded flight information, call DSN 833-0716, commercial 363-0716 or toll free (800) 756-2640. The lost-and-found baggage service section phone number is 417-1603.

Space available sign-up may be made in person, by fax or by e-mail. To send a fax, dial DSN 833-2790 or commercial 363-2790. To sign up via e-mail, send to spacealax@travis.af.mil.

March arrivals

Day	Date	Flight Number	Arrival time	Arriving from
Wednesday...	15, 22, 29	MC88.....	1250	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
Saturday	11, 18, 25	MC80.....	1435	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena
No scheduled arrivals on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Sunday				

March departures

Day	Date	Flight Number	SPACE-A Showtime	Departure time	Destinations
Sunday	12, 19, 26	MC71	1740	2040	Seattle, Osan, Kadena
Monday	13, 20, 27	MC87	1950	2250	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
Thursday	16, 23, 30	MC79	1940	2240	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena

Passengers with confirmed reservations may check in up to six hours prior to departure. Information is now available on the internet at www.travis.af.mil/space_a/laxindex.htm

Do you have a good story idea? Call 363-6428.